



THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Weeks  
Application No. : 09/554,951  
Filed : November 27, 2000  
For : THE USE OF  $\Delta$ 5-ANDROSTENE-3 $\beta$ -OL-7,17-DIONE  
IN THE TREATMENT OF ARTHRITIS  
Examiner : Hui, San-ming  
Group Art Unit : 1617

Patent  
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RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to the non-final Office Action of December 5, 2001 for the above-referenced application, the following timely Amendments and Remarks are respectfully submitted.

AMENDMENTS

Please cancel claims 12 through 21 without prejudice to future prosecution.

Please amend claims 1 through 11 as follows:

- A
1. (Amended) A method of treating or preventing arthritis in a patient in need of such treatment or prevention, comprising administering to said patient a steroid selected from the group consisting of  $\Delta$ 5-androstene-3 $\beta$ -ol-7,17-dione and 3 $\beta$  esters thereof, wherein said administration results in amelioration or prevention of one or more symptoms of arthritis.

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